EXAM READY ENGLISH

Exam Ready English

GRADE 9

Study Guide, Worked Examples and Practice Tests for the Grade 9 Examination



- ✓ 10 units: vocabulary, grammar and writing with clear rules and “Watch out!” boxes
- ✓ 160 worked examples and 280+ practice questions at three levels
- ✓ 140 unit-quiz questions and 3 full mock exams (60 MCQ each)
- ✓ Diagnostic test · Key Rules Sheet · Top 20 Mistakes · teacher notes

Follows the units and order of the Ethiopian Grade 9 English textbook

ERMIAS WEDAJE TEGBARU

Exam Ready English

Grade 9 · Study Guide, Worked Examples and Practice Tests

By Ermias Wedaje Tegbaru
Civil engineer and author, Addis Ababa
First edition, 2026

© 2026 Ermias Wedaje Tegbaru. All rights reserved. This book is licensed to its reader for personal study on the Exam Ready Ethiopia website. It may not be copied, photographed, shared or sold, in whole or in part, without the author's written permission.

This is an independent study guide. It follows the units and order of the Ethiopian Grade 9 English student textbook, but it is not published or endorsed by the Ministry of Education. All explanations, examples and questions are original. Keep your textbook and your teacher's notes beside this book.

The answers were calculated and checked before printing, but no book is free of errors. If you find a mistake or disagree with an answer, please tell the author on Telegram (@Ermias_Wedaje) and it will be reviewed for the next edition.

How to Use This Book

Each unit follows the same pattern, so you always know where to look.

Key ideas
The rules and facts of the section, short and clear.

Worked examples
Step-by-step solutions. Cover the solution and try first.

⚠ Watch out!
The mistakes students make most often, and the right way.

Practice
Level 1 Basic · Level 2 Standard · Level 3 Challenge.

Unit quiz
20 multiple-choice questions in the style of the national examination.

For the Teacher
Timing, starters, misconceptions, activities and assessment.

For students

- Begin with the Diagnostic Test. It shows which units need the most work.
- Read the key ideas, then study each example with the solution covered.
- Do Level 1 and Level 2 practice for every section; try Level 3 when you are ready.
- Take each quiz in 30 minutes, mark it, and redo every question you got wrong.
- In the last weeks, learn the Key Facts Sheet and the Top 20 Mistakes page, and sit the three mock exams. Their answer keys show which unit each question comes from.

For teachers

- Each unit follows the textbook sections, so the book can sit beside your lessons.
- The “For the Teacher” page gives timing, starters, misconceptions and activities.
- The quizzes and mock exams can be used as class tests; every answer has a short reason.

For parents

- Ask your child to explain one worked example to you each day. Teaching is the best way to learn.
- Look at the quiz score after each unit, and celebrate progress, not only high marks.

Contents

Start	Diagnostic Test · Where Should I Start?	5
Unit 1	Living in Urban Areas	8
Unit 2	Study Skills	18
Unit 3	Traffic Accident	28
Unit 4	National Parks	38
Unit 5	Horticulture	48
Unit 6	Poverty in Ethiopia	58
Unit 7	Community Services	68
Unit 8	Communicable Diseases	78
Unit 9	Fairness and Equity	88
Unit 10	The Internet	98
Reference	Key Rules Sheet	108
Reference	Top 20 Mistakes to Avoid	110
Reference	Exam Strategy	111
	Mock Examination 1	112
	Mock Examination 2	116
	Mock Examination 3	120
	Answers to the Mock Examinations	124

Page numbers are the numbers shown at the foot of each page (and in the online reader).

Diagnostic Test · Where Should I Start?

14 questions · 15 minutes. Take this test before you start the book. There are two questions on each unit. Your score only shows you where to spend your time.

1. "Reside" means
   A. live B. visit C. build D. leave
2. Which collocation is correct?
   A. make notes B. have notes C. do notes D. take notes
3. A synonym of "injure" is
   A. obey B. hurt C. drive D. heal
4. "Endangered" means
   A. dangerous to people B. very large
   C. very common D. in danger of disappearing
5. Horticulture is the science of
   A. growing fruit, vegetables and flowers B. mining
   C. cooking only D. building
6. "Drought" means
   A. a long period without rain B. a harvest
   C. a storm D. a flood
7. A volunteer is someone who
   A. earns a high salary B. owns a shop
   C. works without pay D. is a politician
8. A communicable disease is one that
   A. affects only old people B. is never serious
   C. is caused by food only D. spreads from person to person
9. Equity means
   A. punishing people B. giving each person what they need
   C. giving everyone exactly the same D. ignoring needs
10. A search engine is
    A. a keyboard
    B. a type of car
    C. a virus
    D. a program that finds information online
11. "Memorise" means
    A. write B. read aloud C. forget D. learn by heart
12. The noun of "conserve" is
    A. conservative B. conservely C. conservation D. conserving
13. The verb from "modern" is
    A. modernise B. modernation C. modernment D. modernous

Unit 1 · Living in Urban Areas

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

- use vocabulary about city life and phrasal verbs correctly
- form and answer tag questions and other question types
- use the simple present for habits and the present continuous for actions in progress
- use rising and falling intonation and write a well-organised paragraph

Before you start — check yourself. (a) Add a tag: "She lives in Addis Ababa, ____?" (b) Choose: "Look! It ____ (rain / is raining)." (c) Which has a rising tone: a yes/no question or a wh-question?
Answers: (a) doesn't she (b) is raining (c) a yes/no question

Key words: urban · rural · metropolitan · congested · tag question · present continuous · habit · intonation · topic sentence · phrasal verb

How this unit is examined

Question types that appear again and again in Ethiopian model examinations:

- Vocabulary and Phrasal Verbs
- Tag Questions and Question Types
- Simple Present and Present Continuous
- Intonation and Paragraph Writing

1.1 Vocabulary and Phrasal Verbs

Key ideas

- **City words (from "Life in a Big City"):** competition (a contest), reside (live), pollution (dirty air or water), metropolitan (of a big city), congested (overcrowded), adulterated (mixed with something cheaper), recreational (for fun), urban (town), rural (countryside), migrate (move to live elsewhere).
- **Guess meaning from context:** look at the words before and after, at examples, opposites ("however") and word parts (prefix, root, suffix).
- **Phrasal verbs** = verb + particle with a special meaning: **move out** (leave a home), **grow up** (become an adult), **put up with** (tolerate), **look for** (search), **find out** (discover), **give up** (stop), **cope with** (manage), **set up** (start).
- Most phrasal verbs are informal and their meaning is not the sum of the parts: "give up" does not mean "give".

Example 1.1 — Meaning

Choose the meaning of “congested”: empty / overcrowded.

Solution. overcrowded: “the metro is congested”.

Example 1.2 — Phrasal

Complete: “Many people ___ the noise of the city.” (put up with / set up)

Solution. put up with means tolerate.

Example 1.3 — Exam Booster · Opposite

Give the opposite of “urban”.

Solution. rural (countryside).

Example 1.4 — Exam Booster · Phrasal

Replace “find out” with a single word: “We must find out the cause.”

Solution. discover.

⚠ Watch out!

× Wrong	✓ Right
A phrasal verb means the same as its verb alone.	“Give up” (stop) is different from “give”.
Rural means a big city.	Rural means the countryside; urban means town or city.
“Reside” means to leave.	“Reside” means to live in a place.

Practice 1.1

Level 1 — Basic

1. Give the noun for “pollute”.
2. Meaning of “grow up”?
3. Opposite of “rural”?

Level 2 — Standard

4. Complete: “She ___ her village to study.” (moved out / put up)
5. Synonym of “reside”?
6. Meaning of “competition”?

Level 3 — Challenge

7. Use “look for” and “give up” in two sentences.

1.2 Tag Questions and Question Types

Key ideas

- A **tag question** is a short question added to a statement to check or confirm: "You live here, **don't you**?" **Positive statement → negative tag; negative statement → positive tag.**
- The tag repeats the **auxiliary** of the statement (or do/does/did if there is none) with the same subject as a pronoun: "He can swim, **can't he**?" "They went, **didn't they**?"
- **Special cases:** I am → **aren't I?**; Let's → **shall we?**; imperative → **will you?**; there is → **isn't there?**; nobody/nothing + positive tag.
- **Question types:** yes/no questions (Do you ...?), wh-questions (What, Where, Why, When, Who, How), alternative questions (tea or coffee?), and tag questions.

Example 1.5 — Tag

Add a tag: "Addis Ababa is crowded, ___?"

Solution. isn't it?

Example 1.6 — Tag

Add a tag: "They don't live in a village, ___?"

Solution. do they? (negative statement → positive tag).

Example 1.7 — Exam Booster · Special

Add a tag: "Let's walk to school, ___?"

Solution. shall we?

Example 1.8 — Exam Booster · Type

Make a wh-question: "She lives in Adama." (where)

Solution. Where does she live?

⚠ Watch out!

× Wrong	✓ Right
You like the city, don't you? (answer "yes" to disagree).	Answer the fact, not the tag.
She can't swim, can't she?	Negative statement needs a positive tag: "can she?"
I am late, amn't I?	Say "aren't I?".

Unit 2 · Study Skills

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

- use collocations about studying
- use addition connectors, words of sequence and adverbs of frequency
- use the simple past and past continuous tenses correctly
- use intonation in lists, talk about study habits and write a paragraph

Before you start — check yourself. (a) Choose: "I ____ notes in class." (make / take) (b) Choose: "She was reading when the phone ____." (rang / was ringing) (c) Add an addition connector: "He studies hard. ____, he reviews daily."
Answers: (a) take (b) rang (c) Moreover / In addition

Key words: collocation · connector · moreover · sequence · adverb of frequency · past continuous · revise · schedule · concentrate · summarise

How this unit is examined

Question types that appear again and again in Ethiopian model examinations:

- Vocabulary and Collocations
- Connectors, Sequence Words and Adverbs of Frequency
- Simple Past and Past Continuous
- Intonation, Study Habits and Paragraph Writing

2.1 Vocabulary and Collocations

Key ideas

- **Study words:** concentrate, revise, memorise, summarise, schedule, distraction, deadline, assignment, motivation, effective, strategy, note-taking.
- A **collocation** is a pair or group of words that naturally go together: **take** notes (not "make notes"), **do** homework, **make** a mistake, **pay** attention, **make** progress, **take** an exam, **meet** a deadline, **give** a presentation, **revise for** a test.
- Collocations are learned by use, not by rule: use a dictionary and note the whole phrase.
- **Guessing meaning:** use context clues: definitions ("which means"), examples, synonyms, opposites.

Example 2.1 — Collocation

Choose: "She always ____ her homework on time." (does / makes)

Solution. does (do homework).

Unit 6 · Poverty in Ethiopia

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

- use vocabulary about poverty and development
- form words with the suffixes -ate, -ise/-ize, -ment and -tion
- use have to, must, don't have to, mustn't and need to correctly
- discuss causes and effects of poverty and write a paragraph

Before you start — check yourself. (a) Form a noun from "develop". (b) Choose: "You ____ pay to enter; it is free." (mustn't / don't have to) (c) Complete: "There was a drought; ____, many farmers lost crops." (as a result / although)
Answers: (a) development (b) don't have to (c) as a result

Key words: poverty · drought · unemployment · income · development · suffix · obligation · prohibition · cause · effect

How this unit is examined

Question types that appear again and again in Ethiopian model examinations:

- Vocabulary and Suffixes
- Modals: Obligation, Prohibition and No Obligation
- Causes and Effects
- Paragraph Writing on Poverty

6.1 Vocabulary and Suffixes

Key ideas

- **Poverty words:** poverty (being very poor), drought (long dry period), famine (severe food shortage), unemployment (having no job), income (money earned), inequality, aid (help), vulnerable, subsistence, shortage, literacy, development.
- **Suffix -tion / -ation** makes **nouns** from verbs: educate → education, populate → population, produce → production. **-ment** makes nouns: develop → development, govern → government, improve → improvement.
- **-ate** makes verbs or adjectives or nouns: educate, separate, moderate, accurate. **-ise / -ize** makes verbs meaning "make or become": modernise, organise, realise, urbanise.
- **Spelling:** drop the final -e before -ation/-ise (create → creation); keep the e before -ment (manage → management).

Unit 9 · Fairness and Equity

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

- use vocabulary about equality, equity and justice
- use the forms of the simple past tense correctly
- contrast the simple past with the present perfect
- write a descriptive essay and discuss fairness

Before you start — check yourself. (a) Give the simple past of "teach". (b) Choose: "I ____ him last week." (saw / have seen) (c) What is the difference between equality and equity?
Answers: (a) taught (b) saw (c) equality = same for all; equity = fair, each according to need

Key words: equality · equity · justice · discrimination · rights · opportunity · bias · simple past · present perfect · descriptive essay

How this unit is examined

Question types that appear again and again in Ethiopian model examinations:

- Vocabulary: Equality, Equity and Justice
- Forms of the Simple Past
- Simple Past and Present Perfect
- Descriptive Essay and Discussion

9.1 Vocabulary: Equality, Equity and Justice

Key ideas

- **Equality** means giving everyone the **same** treatment or resources. **Equity** means giving each person **what they need** to reach a fair result. **Justice** means fair treatment under the law.
- **Words:** fairness, rights, discrimination (unfair treatment because of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability), prejudice, bias, opportunity, access, inclusive, tolerance, respect, abuse, court, equal pay.
- **Example:** equality = every student gets the same book; equity = a visually impaired student also gets a large-print book.
- **Word forms:** equal – equality – equally – unequal; just – justice – unjust; fair – fairness – unfairly; discriminate – discrimination – discriminatory.

Example 9.1 — Difference

Explain equality and equity with one example.

Solution. Equality: all get the same shoes. Equity: each gets shoes in his or her own size.

Key Rules Sheet

Learn these by heart. Cover the right-hand side and say each rule from memory.

Unit 1 · Urban life

Tag: positive statement → negative tag; negative → positive

I am → aren't I? ; Let's → shall we?

Simple present = habits ; present continuous = now

Stative verbs (know, like, want) are not continuous

Yes/no questions rise ; wh-questions fall

Paragraph: topic, support, conclusion

Unit 2 · Study skills

take notes ; do homework ; make a mistake ; pay attention

Addition: moreover, in addition, also, besides

Sequence: first, next, then, finally

Adverbs go before the verb, after be

Past continuous: was/were + -ing

when + simple past ; while + continuous

Unit 3 · Traffic accident

must = obligation ; mustn't = forbidden

don't have to = not necessary

should / ought to = advice

Modal + base verb

does/doesn't with he, she, it + base verb

Synonyms similar ; antonyms opposite

Unit 4 · National parks

Zero: if + present, present (facts)

First: if + present, will + base (real future)

unless = if ... not (no negative after unless)

No will in the if-clause

Report: title, introduction, findings, conclusion

Formal language in reports

Unit 5 · Horticulture

Second: if + past, would + base (unreal present)

If I were you ...

Third: if + had + pp, would have + pp (unreal past)

much + uncountable ; many + countable

some in statements ; any in questions and negatives

Process: first, next, then, finally

Unit 6 · Poverty

-tion, -ment make nouns ; -ise/-ize make verbs

must / have to = obligation

mustn't = prohibited ; don't have to = not needed

because + clause ; because of + noun

so / as a result for results

Past of have to: had to

Unit 7 · Community services

who (people) ; which (things) ; whose (possession)

where (place) ; when (time)

Defining: no commas ; that is possible

Non-defining: commas ; no that

Omit the pronoun only when it is the object

Essay: introduction, body, conclusion

Unit 8 · Communicable diseases

Present perfect: have/has + pp

for = period ; since = starting point

Present perfect continuous: have/has been + -ing

No present perfect with yesterday, last year

Stative verbs are not continuous

come down with = become ill ; get over = recover

Mock Examination 1

60 multiple-choice questions · 90 minutes · one mark each. Circle one answer. Mark with the answer key at the back and use the unit number to see where to revise.

1. "Reside" means
   A. live B. visit C. build D. leave
2. The opposite of "rural" is
   A. remote B. village C. urban D. farm
3. "Congested" means
   A. overcrowded B. quiet C. empty D. clean
4. "Put up with" means
   A. tolerate B. return C. build D. invite
5. "Grow up" means
   A. become an adult B. move out
   C. become taller only D. plant
6. "He works here, ____?"
   A. didn't he B. isn't he C. does he D. doesn't he
7. Which collocation is correct?
   A. make notes B. have notes C. do notes D. take notes
8. She always ____ her homework.
   A. does B. gives C. makes D. takes
9. Please ____ attention in class.
   A. give B. do C. make D. pay
10. "Memorise" means
    A. write B. read aloud C. forget D. learn by heart
11. Which is an addition connector?
    A. but B. moreover C. however D. because
12. "First, … Then, … ____, …" (last step)
    A. However B. Firstly C. Finally D. Also
13. A synonym of "injure" is
    A. obey B. hurt C. drive D. heal
14. The antonym of "safe" is
    A. slow B. secure C. quiet D. dangerous
15. The opposite of "obey" is
    A. disobey B. nonobey C. unobey D. inobey
16. "Illegal" means
    A. visible B. slow
    C. against the law D. allowed